

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 582 PC 03	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2003/007570	International filing date (day/month/year) 14 July 2003 (14.07.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 16 July 2002 (16.07.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC F01N 11/00		
Applicant FEV MOTORENTECHNIK GMBH		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT). These annexes consist of a total of <u>7</u> sheets.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items: I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 09 February 2004 (09.02.2004)	Date of completion of this report 25 May 2004 (25.05.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP Facsimile No.	Authorized officer Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP2003/007570

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
 pages 1-4, 7-15, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages 5, 6, 6a, filed with the letter of 27 April 2004 (27.04.2004)
- ☒ the claims:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages 1-36, filed with the letter of 27 April 2004 (27.04.2004)
- ☒ the drawings:
 pages 1-6, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP 03/07570

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-36	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-36	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-36	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

This report makes reference to the following document:

D1: US 2001 054 281 A (Adams et al.)

D1 is regarded as the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1. D1 discloses (see paragraphs [0030-0046]; figure 4; the references in parentheses are to D1): a method for artificially aging a catalytic converter (150), used on a test bench (110, 120, 122, 130, 160), for converting exhaust gases with at least one component from the group comprising C-, HC- and NOx-containing components, hot aging gas (from combustion chamber (120)), which comprises at least one component from the group comprising C-, HC- and NOx-containing components, being passed through the catalytic converter (150).

Therefore the subject matter of claim 1 differs from the known method in that gas flowing out of the catalytic converter is partially admixed with the aging gas to be supplied to the catalytic converter for recirculation.

The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

The problem to be solved by the present invention can therefore be regarded as that of providing a method for artificially aging a catalytic converter, which method uses less energy.

The solution to this problem as proposed in claim 1 of the present application involves an inventive step for the following reasons (PCT Article 33(3)):

Recycling the exhaust gas flowing out of the catalytic converter leads to a correspondingly larger gas stream volume that can be produced with less energy.

Claim 27 is also regarded as novel and inventive for the aforementioned reasons.

Claims to 2 to 26 and 28 to 36 are dependent on claims 1 and 27, respectively, and therefore also meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.